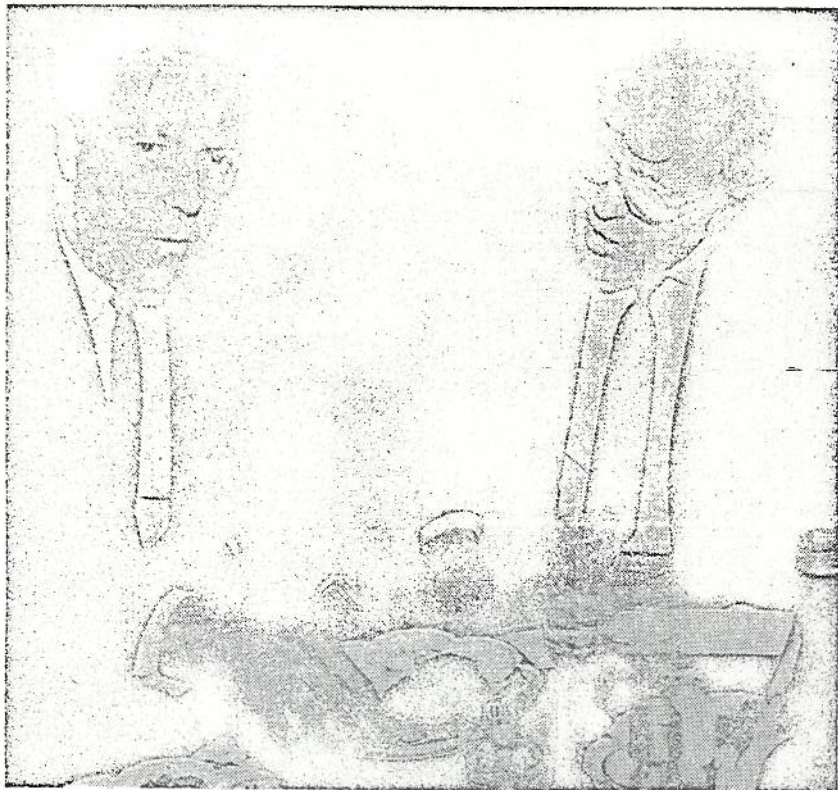




JAMES GARRISON AND MELVIN BELLI
New Orleans prosecutor and San Francisco attorney met as old friends

—Examiner Photo

Garrison, JFK Death Prober, Goes Back to New Orleans

By SAM BLUMENFELD
Staff Writer

It was a mixture of pleasure, business and cloak-room intrigue for New Orleans District Attorney James Garrison.

He was the house guest here of an old friend, attorney Melvin Belli.

So much for pleasure.

He was also here, it was learned, to check into circumstances under which Clay Shaw attended a luncheon in San Francisco the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

Shaw is under indictment in New Orleans as a key figure in what Garrison contends was a conspiracy on Kennedy's life.

So much for business.

TALKS OF CASE

The tall (6-6), handsome and articulate prosecutor talked "straight from the shoulder" about the case to a small group of Belli's friends, mostly newspapermen, at the attorney's plush Telegraph Hill penthouse.

But he prefaced all his remarks with "This is off the record."

So much — but more — for intrigue.

What Garrison had to say in reply to questions about the events, as he sees them, leading up to the assassination was as intriguing as the spectacular panoramic Bay and City view from Belli's penthouse.

The prosecutor was a fascinating dinner guest last night, before his departure for home this morning.

Belli's deck is loaded with prize potted geraniums and other plants, including a tiny vineyard of tokay grapes that are ripening but not quite edible yet.

GORMET MEAL

What was edible were the luscious steaks, salads and French garlic bread prepared by Lee, Belli's gourmet chef.

The guests swallowed the food and gulped at Garrison's comments on the assassination. They included "new evidence" on persons associated publicly with the assassination, including Jack Ruby, Lee Harvey Oswald and others.

"This is, however, off the record," said Garrison.

He pointed out that Clay Shaw may not come up to trial for some time. And, on the record, he said:

"As a prosecutor I must go on the assumption Shaw is innocent until proven guilty."

Belli, who defended Jack Ruby for the murder of Oswald, was asked if he was associated with Garrison in the assassination probe.

"No," Belli said. "But he has brought up some things for the first time that are inexplicable to me."

He said this had something to do with certain telephone numbers found in Ruby's address book.

"But," added Belli, "He (Garrison) hasn't convinced me — yet."

Garrison, he said, doesn't believe the Warren Commission Report.

"I do," said Belli.